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Volume 5, May 2025

NEWSLETTER

Get updates on our events and initiatives three times a year!

Did you know?

The Friends now have our first Vice Chair, Nancy Cardin!

Nancy comes with a wealth of experience in event planning, fundraising, communication, governance, and tech skills. She also has valuable personal qualities. She is energetic, organized, hopeful, extroverted and pro-active.

In meetings her style is to listen to different viewpoints and try to integrate them into an action plan.

Why isn't she Chair already? Nancy also teaches and in 2021 she incorporated her company The French Kitten. With over 8 years of experience, she and her team offer customized work plans for both children and adults, as well as summer camps. The French Kitten provides equal learning opportunities and linguistic achievement for all, in Barrhaven and Almonte.

Message From Our Chair, Barb Carroll

As we move towards our summer break, the Friends are in good shape. Thanks to the Annual Book Sale in October, 2024 (\$7573) and the first Christmas Book Sale in December, 2024, (\$1537), we started 2025 with a surplus in our account. As a result, before any of our major fundraisers, we were able to donate \$8,500 to the MM Public Library, \$4000 to maintain a fine free library, \$3,000 for a Self-Check Out station in Almonte, and \$1500 for a new Booking Management System.

On April 26 we presented our first big fundraiser of the year, a Staged Reading of Jackie Bennett's comedy "Get What You Need". We hosted 2 shows and, after expenses were paid, we raised approximately \$4219.

Our committees are now preparing for our next round of fundraisers, the annual online auction of local services and our first Live! @ The Library concert. The auction site goes live for "window shopping" on May 19 and the auction runs from June 9 to 20. The concert committee has hired performers for the June 1 concert and are busy organizing another fine day so we can have live music in the Library garden.

I truly appreciate the tremendous effort you all continue to put into the Friends fundraising efforts. Together we can provide the Library with the support it needs. And that makes me so proud of you all.

REVIEW OF PLAY READING

The Play Reading of GET WHAT YOU was highly successful. We sold 229 tickets, and close to \$100 worth of snacks and juices/water. Our gross income was approximately \$5735. After expenses we made \$3,700 to support library programming. The play was funny, playful, well scripted, and uplifting. The actors came together as a cohesive group and it then became magical on a rainy, dismal day. The audience loved it and many asked for more play readings. Huge thanks to: playwright and director Jackie Bennett, the cast who put their hearts into their performances, the Friends committee who pulled it together, Patrick Miller, for the photos, and Brian Ling, for working the lights.

Much of the magic of the afternoon and evening came from our event sponsor the French Kitten, owned by Nancy Cardin, who provided food for the actors between shows, and snacks and juices/water for the audience. Her efforts were greatly appreciated by audience and actors.

LIVE! @ THE LIBRARY

We hope you will be able to join us in the Library garden on Sunday, June 1st at 2:30 for another wonderful outdoor roots music show featuring a local Ottawa band called Moonfruits.

Moonfruits are presently on tour in France, representing Canada at an international roots festival of music called Changez d'Air. We are so lucky they are able to wind up their tour in France with our Live! @ the library concert series.

Moonfruits, 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award nominees (Emerging Act & Producers of the Year), is led by two masters of musical harmony, Alex Millaire and Kaitlin Milroy, presenting songs in both French and English. For this June performance, Moonfruits will be joined with double-bassist Toby Meis.

Bring a lawn chair and settle in for some great harmonies. Hope to see you there.

Tickets through Tickets Please (ticketsplease.ca)

ONLINE AUCTION 2025

The auction committee is preparing for the online auction which will be open for "window shopping" on May 19 and go live for bidding from June 9 – 20. This year's auction features "The Best Of Mississippi Mills". As we go to businesses in the area for donations of services we are meeting with a wonderful response. The vast majority of businesses are delighted to be involved. Already we are putting up entries on the auction site, aiming again for 100 entries. We have some repeat businesses and are striving to include new ones as well. We are hoping the auction is going to continue to be one of our two major fundraisers. As of May 19th, you can access the auction site at www.32auctions.com/FMMPL2025. The "window shopping" period allows you to register on the site, pick out your favourites and star them so you are ready to go on June 9.

THE FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE

Last year the Friends held their first ever Christmas Book Sale resulting in a great success. The 2-day event was held on November 30th and December 1st in the large meeting room located inside the Almonte Library. Thanks to a concentrated effort with promotions, 250 people attended over the weekend, the tables filled with a large selection of nearly new books for all ages, the majority ranging between 1 to 5 dollars. Also available and popular during the sale, were carefully selected book sets, prewrapped in gift box packages. Many shoppers were delighted they came. When all was over, the sale raised \$1700, impressive for a first-time event. An awesome achievement from a motivated team of volunteers!



INTRODUCING: Pat and John Coderre!

When John and Patricia Coderre moved to Almonte from London, Ontario in 2014, one of the first things they did was join the library. They both love to read, and Pat had spent several years on the Board of the London Public Library and many more years as part of their Friends group. Pat also had been a book club member in London for 40 years and quickly and successfully sought an Almonte book club to join. This enabled her to make new friends in a community in which she knew no one when she first arrived. So it was natural that, in 2020, when Pam Harris started the Friends of the Mississippi Mills Public Library, John and Pat were among the first members. Pat immediately became the Friends' Secretary and John took over as Treasurer in 2023 and is now in his second term in that position. For the past three years John has also been coordinating the Friends annual Online Auction.

Because of her book club involvement, Pat reads a wide variety of genres. She especially enjoys mysteries and spiritual reflections. Her favourite authors are Louise Penny, Joyce Rupp and Elly Griffiths.

John favourite genres are historical fiction, psychological thrillers and politics. His favourite authors are Ken Follett, Dean Koontz and Daniel Silva.



Friends
of Mississippi Mills
Public Library

ONLINE AUCTION

**THE BEST OF
MISSISSIPPI MILLS**

Auction site:
32auctions.com/FMML2025

Viewing: May 19 – June 8, 2025
Bidding: June 9 – June 20, 2025



Moonfruits live at the Almonte Library

Friends
of Mississippi Mills
Public Library

POTLUCK Lunch

You are invited to our annual Potluck Lunch before we break for the summer. Bring a dish to share. Tea, coffee will be provided.

Tuesday, 24 June, 2025

Start At Noon - 2:00 PM
Pakenham Branch of the Library
128 MacFarlane St. Pakenham

DON'T FORGET!

Our final general meeting before our summer break is on June 24, 2025 at 10:30am.

Again, we are holding this meeting at the Pakenham Library, 128 MacFarlane St. The meeting is followed by our annual Pot Luck Luncheon. Everybody brings a dish of some kind, and the Friends will provide the drinks – tea, coffee, etc.

The Potluck was a great get together last year. If you are a Friend but can't come to the meeting, bring a dish and come join us around noon.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Becoming a Friend is easy!

All we need is your name and contact information, and your \$10 annual dues. The best way to do this is to pick up one of our brochures as you come into the Almonte library and fill out the information on the last page. Then take the brochure and your \$10 and hand them in to the front desk in the library. The library staff will pass it on to us.

Alternatively, we can now accept e-transfers. Please send to friends@missmillslibrary.com.

Any questions? Contact us: friends@missmillslibrary.com

finalthoughts...

The Friends of Mississippi Mills Public Library's Newsletter will let you know about upcoming events at our Almonte and Pakenham branches. If you would like a copy, it can be emailed to you, simply contact <friends@missmillslibrary.com> or view it on the MMPL website.

Do you have any friends looking for a way to connect with their community? We'd love to have them join the Friends of the Library! We meet at the Almonte and Pakenham branches and have several committees they can join as well.

If you would like to submit an article for our readers, you can contact me at <friends@missmillslibrary.com>

Thanks for dropping by!

Sandy Coutts Sutherland

Editor



In the Next Issue >>>

Comes out Sept. 2025

**Live! at the Library
Christmas 2025
June Potluck Update**

Results of On-Line Auction

SUMMER READING!

Piglet by Lottie Hazell
Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
Twilight Territory Andrew X. Pham
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Autopsy of a Boring Wife Marie-Renee Lavoie
The Full Moon Coffee Shop by Mai Mochizuki
Eddie Winston Looking for Love by Marianne Cronin
Before The Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
The Crossing Places by Elly
The Invisible Life of Addie Larue by VE Schwab
The Frozen River by Ariel Lawson
Foolproof by Sander van der Linden
The Power of Meaning by Emily Esfahani-Smith
Rules of Civility by Amor Toews
Drowned by John Banville
The Girl in The Window by Renee Pawlish
The Very Marrow of Our Bones by Christine Higdon
The Ministry of Time by Kalliane Bradley
The Last Murder at the End of the World by Stuart Turton
The Full Moon Coffee Shop by Mai Mochizuki
Eddie Winston Looking for Love by Marianne Cronin
The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamala
The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese
On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by Timothy Snyder
James by Perceval Everett
The Briar Club by Kate Quinn
From the Land of Dreams by Frank Rambeau
The Symphony of Monsters by Marc Levy
The Paris Express by Emma Donoghue